

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 30, 2017

Celebrating Military Expertise and American Freedom

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This weekend as we reflect on Independence Day and the freedom we enjoy as Americans, it is right for us to recognize the men and women in uniform who sacrifice for that freedom.

I have long believed the American military is the arsenal of democracy that is critical for upholding the free world, and I am grateful for each member of the United States Armed Forces who serves.

In a war zone, trauma surgeons are some of the most crucial members of the Armed Forces. These medical professionals are trained to save the lives of soldiers who sustain traumatic injuries in the line of duty, and are some of the best in the business.

However, as wars wind down and our soldiers come home, the experience that military trauma surgeons have gained overseas will be lost unless these surgeons continue to train and prepare for whenever they may be deployed again. To let this expertise and skill drift away would be a significant loss to trauma patients.

Fortunately, there's a way that we can ensure these surgeons' expertise can be put to use to help other American patients who need it.

Trauma is not limited to battle fields in active conflicts. Unfortunately no community is immune from the threat of traumatic injury, and community doctors must be prepared to give live-saving care to trauma victims.

One way that we can improve care for trauma victims is to connect American patients with battle-tested trauma care and the expertise of military trauma care providers. Yesterday I was grateful that the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health advanced the Mission Zero Act that I introduced this spring.

This legislation provides grants to allow military trauma care providers and teams offer care at home in the nation's leading trauma centers and systems. Simply put, the Mission Zero Act is a win for both civilian patients and military doctors.

These grants will keep our military trauma preparedness high while increasing the capacity and expertise of these domestic trauma centers across the United States. I am

honored to be the original sponsor of this bipartisan effort that will simultaneously improve medical care and bolster our national security.

This weekend, I hope that you and your family have a safe and happy Fourth of July celebration. As you spend time with your family members and loved ones this weekend, please remember to keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.